



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

KASTELIC *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/869,159

Filed: August 15, 2001

For: **Assay for Identifying Compounds
Which Affect Stability of mRNA**

Confirmation No.: 9266

Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: Qian, C.X.

Atty. Docket: 1556.0290000/RWE/JKM

Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

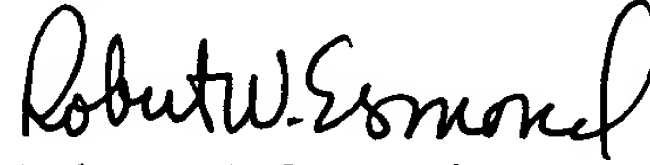
It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended one month from February 18, 2004 to March 18, 2004 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$55.00 for a one month extension for a small entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,893

Date: March 18, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600